

# Innovative Workforce Incentive Program – Frequently Asked Questions

## Reimbursement Funds

### How were the qualifying industry-recognized credentials determined?

The Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation Innovative Workforce Incentive Program is based on the Ohio Department of Education's approved industry-recognized credential list. Find more information on the Ohio Department of Education's approved industry-recognized credential list [here](#). Find school districts offering these industry-recognized credentials [here](#).

Only industry-recognized credentials worth 6 or more points in targeted segments of the economy that have been identified in high growth, in-demand jobs and that lead students down career paths in information technology and cyber security, advanced manufacturing, construction and engineering, and the skilled trades are included in the Innovative Workforce Incentive Program. To ensure Ohio continues to meet the workforce needs of employers, the program incentives are designed to expand student access and provide new opportunities for the next generation of the workforce.

### Does a district collect incentive funding for more than one industry-recognized credential per student?

Individual reimbursement amounts are available for each industry-recognized credential. Once the credential is reported to the Ohio Department of Education as earned by a student, reimbursement is generated at the amount assigned to that credential. If the credential is also on the Innovative Workforce Incentive Program list, an additional payment of \$1,250 will be applied for the district who indicates they paid for the cost of the credential for each qualifying credential.

## Implementation Grant

### What is the Innovative Workforce Incentive Program Implementation Grant 2?

Approximately \$4.5 million is available for Innovative Workforce Incentive Program Implementation Grant 2 awards for state Fiscal Year 2021, with another \$4.5 million to follow in FY22. Grants will be awarded based on the application's technical review score and competitive preference priorities. The amount awarded will be based on the submitted budget if dollars must be prorated. The intent of the Innovative Workforce Incentive Program Implementation Grant 2 is to provide funding to districts to establish or expand qualifying credential programs from the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation Innovative Workforce Incentive Program list.

## **What can the Innovative Workforce Incentive Program Implementation Grant 2 money be spent on?**

To develop and implement quality credentialing programs aligned to priority industry sectors, school districts must invest in resources such as equipment, instructional materials, facilities and operational costs. The Innovative Workforce Incentive Program Implementation Grant 2 allows the use of grant funds to generally support the implementation of a new credentialing program, however, funds may not be used to pay for the costs of student credential exams, as districts are eligible to receive reimbursement for those costs. To receive reimbursement, districts must report students as earning industry-recognized credentials in EMIS. Find more information on reporting [here](#) (visit sections 2.8 - Student Assessment Record and 2.8.1 - Assessment Area Codes).

## **How will grant determinations be made?**

Selections will be prioritized by applications from districts where credentialing programs aligned to priority industry sectors do not currently operate. Competitive preference will be determined by a technical grant review. Conditions of the review, including scoring rubric, will be included in the grant's Request for Applications to be published in September 2021.

## **How will awards be allocated?**

Grant award amounts will be determined by the number of approved applications, budgets requested, minimum amounts needed to operate the credential program and final scores. Grants will be awarded based on budgets if dollars must be prorated.